

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KABUL 04579 061751Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05
OC-06 CCO-00 MCT-01 IO-13 HA-05 PC-01 AGRE-00
/095 W

-----086338 061758Z /72

O 060500Z JUN 78 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8400
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
CINCEUR
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 4579

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, IR, AF
SUBJECT: WIDESPREAD RUMORS CIRCULATE IN KABUL THAT IRAN'S
SHAH KILLED IN COUP

1. RUMORS IN KABUL BEGINNING LATE AFTERNOON JUNE 5TH HAVE
PERSISTED AND MULTIPLIED THROUGHOUT TODAY(JUNE 6TH) THAT SHAH
OF IRAN HAS BEEN KILLED IN A COUP OF UNKNOWN POLITICAL COLORATION.
VIRTUALLY THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF KABUL IS TALKING ABOUT AND
MANY APPARENTLY BELIEVE THESE RUMORS. THOUSANDS OF KABUL
UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WERE OBSERVED BY AN AFGHAN FSL JOYFULLY
SHARING THIS "NEWS." STORY IS SO WIDESPREAD THAT EVEN DENIZENS
OF OLD BAZAAR ARE REPEATING IT.

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2. ANOTHER FSL REPORTED THAT AT 1345 AFGHAN TIME JUNE 6,
A VOICE INTERRUPTED NORMAL BROADCAST FROM TEHRAN AND EXCLAIMED,
"IT IS ALL OVER IN IRAN. STOP EVERYTING." THEN BROADCASTING FROM
TEHRAN AUDIBLE IN AFGHANISTAN CEASED UNTIL ABOUT 1630 LOCAL
TIME. SUBSEQUENT BROADCASTS FROM RADIO MESHED (AS RECENTLY AS
1900 HOURS), IMPLYING THAT ALL IS NORMAL, HAVE BEEN HEARD

HERE. ONE OTHER UNCONFIRMED REPORT SUBSEQUENTLY STATED THAT A 1730 BROADCAST FROM TEHRAN ANNOUNCED THAT THE SHAH WAS DEAD, REBELS ARE IN CONTROL, AND THAT "NO ONE SHOULD RESIST."

3. LATE IN THE AFTERNOON OF JUNE 6 THE IRANIAN DCM CLAIMED EVERYTHING WAS NORMAL IN HIS COUNTRY AND THAT IRANIAN RADIO WAS OPERATING AS USUAL.

4. AT 1900, BBC'S PERSIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM ANNOUNCED "RIOTING ALL OVER IRAN."

5. AT 1945 HOURS, OUR FSL RADIO SPECIALIST HEARD WHAT HE REGARDS AS A "MOBILE TRANSMITTER," PURPORTING TO BE RADIO TEHRAN, ANNOUNCING THAT THE SHAH AND HIS FAMILY ARE DEAD.

6. COMMENT: PERVASIVENESS OF THESE STORIES IN KABUL PROMPT US TO REPORT THEM, EVEN THOUGH KABUL SINCE APRIL 27 HAS BEEN AN EXTREMELY FERTILE FIELD FOR UNFOUNDED RUMORS. NEVERTHELESS, THIS FLOOD OF RUMORS DOES REFLECT CURRENT THINKING IN KABUL. ELIOT

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, SHAH, DEATHS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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SAS ID: 2479663
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: WIDESPREAD RUMORS CIRCULATE IN KABUL THAT IRAN'S SHAH KILLED IN COUP
TAGS: PINT, IR, AF
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Type: TE
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